

U.S. Patent Appln. No. 10/038,719
Response Dated Jan. 4, 2006
Reply to Advisory Action of Dec. 20, 2005
Docket No. BOC9-2000-0061 (196)

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An instant messaging or chat (IM/chat) communication method comprising the steps of:

inserting in an instant message (IM) a voice conference identifier comprising a voice conference call list identifying conference call nodes;

embedding computer program code in said IM, wherein execution of said computer program code at a recipient node establishes a voice communications link between an IM sender and a recipient at the recipient node[[.]];

transmitting said IM from the sender to the recipient at the recipient node;

a recipient client detecting the voice conference identifier within the IM;

responsive to the detecting step, an IM interface of the recipient displaying a user-selectable text or graphic symbol; and

responsive to a user-selection of said displayed text or graphic symbol, automatically establishing a voice communication link between the recipient and the sender using the computer program code embedded in said IM.

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2. (Previously Presented) The IM/chat communication method of claim 1, wherein said voice communication link is a Voice over IP (VoIP) based voice communication links.

3. (Previously Presented) The IM/chat communication method of claim 1, wherein said voice communication link is a telephony-based voice communication link occurring over a public switched telephone network (PSTN).

4. (Original) The IM/chat communication method of claim 1, wherein said voice conference call list specifies telephone numbers for said identified conference call nodes.

5. (Original) The IM/chat communication method of claim 1, wherein said voice conference call list specifies IP addresses for said identified conference call nodes.

6. (Previously Presented) The IM/chat communication method of claim 1, said inserting step further comprising:

inserting in said IM/chat message a selectable symbol for initiating said voice communication link with said selected ones of said identified conference call nodes.

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7. (Original) The IM/chat communication method of claim 1, said inserting step further comprising:

inserting in said IM/chat message a plurality of selectable symbols, each said symbol for initiating a voice communications link with a selected one of said identified conference call nodes.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) An instant messaging or chat (IM/chat) communication method comprising the steps of:

detecting within an IM message conveyed from a sender to a recipient at a recipient node a voice conference identifier comprising a voice conference call list identifying conference call nodes;

responsive to detecting said voice conference identifier, displaying at least one selectable icon within an IM interface of said recipient; and

responsive to a selection of said at least one selectable icon by said recipient, extracting a software program embedded within said IM and executing said software program at the recipient node, said software program establishing a voice conference call between said recipient and said sender.

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10. (Original) The IM/chat communication method of claim 9, wherein said displaying step displays a single icon and said establishing step establishes said voice conference call between said selected ones of said identified conference call nodes responsive to said selection of said single icon.

11. (Original) The IM/chat communication method of claim 9, wherein said displaying step displays a plurality of icons, each said icon corresponding to one of said voice conference call nodes, and wherein said establishing step establishes a voice communications link with said selected ones of said conference call nodes responsive to said selection of corresponding ones of said plurality of icons.

12. (Previously Presented) The IM/chat communication method of claim 9, wherein said software program is embedded within said IM, said establishing step further comprising:

extracting from said IM embedded software program.

13. (Original) The IM/chat communication method of claim 9, wherein said voice conference call list includes telephone numbers for said identified conference call nodes.

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14. (Original) The IM/chat communication method of claim 9, wherein said voice conference call list includes IP addresses for said identified conference call nodes.

15. (Original) The IM/chat communication method of claim 9, wherein said voice conference call is established using Voice over IP (VoIP) based voice communications links.

16. (Original) The IM/chat communication method of claim 9, wherein said voice conference call is established using telephony-based voice communications links over a public switched telephone network (PSTN).

17. (Original) The IM/chat communication method of claim 9, said establishing step further comprising:

responsive to said selection of said at least one icon, determining a telephone number or an IP address for said selected ones of said identified conference call nodes based on said voice conference call list.

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18. (Previously Presented) An instant message included within a computer readable medium comprising:

header information, said header information identifying a sending node and a recipient node;

a message portion, said message portion displaying content from said sending node to said recipient node; and

an attachment portion, said attachment portion including a voice conference identifier comprising a voice conference call list specifying conference call nodes to be connected via a voice conference call, and an embedded software program;

wherein said recipient node is a conference call node, wherein said voice conference identifier is configured to be detected by an IM chat client and cause said IM chat client to responsively display a selectable item which when selected causes said embedded software program to be executed at said recipient node to establish a voice communication link among said conference call nodes.

19. (Cancelled)

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20. (Currently Amended) A computer program included within a computer readable medium, said computer program having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

inserting in an instant message (IM) a voice conference identifier comprising a voice conference call list identifying conference call nodes;

inserting in said IM a plurality of selectable symbols, each said symbol for initiating a voice communications link with said selected ones of said identified conference call nodes;

embedding computer program code in said IM, wherein said computer program code is executed at a recipient node in response to a user selecting one of said plurality of selectable symbols, wherein execution of said computer program code establishes said voice communications link;

transmitting said IM from a sender to a recipient at a recipient node;

a recipient client detecting the voice conference identifier within the IM;

responsive to the detecting step, an IM interface of the recipient displaying said plurality of selectable symbols user-selectable text or graphic symbol; and

responsive to a user-selection of one of said plurality of selectable symbols, automatically establishing a voice communication link between the recipient and the sender.

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21. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 20, wherein said voice communication link is a Voice over IP (VoIP) based voice communication links.

22. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 20, wherein said voice communication link is a telephony-based voice communication link occurring over a public switched telephone network (PSTN).

23. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 20, wherein said voice conference call list specifies telephone numbers for said identified conference call nodes.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 20, wherein said voice conference call list specifies IP addresses for said identified conference call nodes.

25. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 20, said inserting step further comprising:

inserting in said IM/chat message a selectable symbol for initiating said voice communication link with said selected ones of said identified conference call nodes.

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26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) A computer program included within a computer readable medium, said computer program having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

detecting within an IM message conveyed from a sender to a recipient at a recipient node a voice conference identifier comprising a voice conference call list identifying conference call nodes;

responsive to detecting said voice conference identifier, displaying at least one selectable icon within an IM interface of a recipient; and

responsive to a selection of said at least one selectable icon, executing at the recipient node a software program embedded within said IM, said software program establishing step further comprising:

extracting from said IM embedded software program that establishes a voice conference call between said recipient and said sender.

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29. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 28, wherein said displaying step displays a single icon and said establishing step establishes said voice conference call between said selected ones of said identified conference call nodes responsive to said selection of said single icon.

30. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 28, wherein said displaying step displays a plurality of icons, each said icon corresponding to one of said voice conference call nodes, and wherein said establishing step establishes a voice communications link with said selected ones of said conference call nodes responsive to said selection of corresponding ones of said plurality of icons.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 28, wherein said voice conference call list includes telephone numbers for said identified conference call nodes.

33. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 28, wherein said voice conference call list includes IP addresses for said identified conference call nodes.

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34. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 28, wherein said voice conference call is established using Voice over IP (VoIP) based voice communications links.

35. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 28, wherein said voice conference call is established using telephony-based voice communications links over a public switched telephone network (PSTN).

36. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 28, said establishing step further comprising:

responsive to said recipient selecting said at least one icon, determining a telephone number or an IP address for said selected ones of said identified conference call nodes based on said voice conference call list.

37. (Previously Presented) An instant messaging or chat session client stored upon a computer readable medium comprising:

a conventional IM processor, said conventional IM processor extracting and displaying message text encapsulated in a received IM; and,

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a voice conference processor, said voice conference processor identifying a voice conference identifier encapsulated in said received IM, displaying at least one selectable icon in response to detecting said voice conference identifier, and responsive to a selection of said at least one selectable icon, executing a software program that establishes a voice conference call between selected conference call nodes specified by said voice conference identifier, wherein said voice conference call occurs over a telephony-based voice communication link.